12
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'MAZING MAN·12

'MAZING MAN

'mazing man

...WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY DESTEFANO & ROZAKIS

with : Craig Boldman - inker ★ Bob Lappan - letterer ★ Nansi Hoolahan - colorist ★ *and* Barbara Randall *as the Chipmunk*

Oh Changes

DEDICATED TO SOUTH OZONE PARK / RICHMOND HILL -- THANX.

THERE'S A CERTAIN SMELL IN THE AIR WHEN THE SUN COMES OUT AFTER A LATE SUMMER SHOWER. DON'T ASK ME TO DESCRIBE IT; I'M NOT **THAT** GOOD A WRITER. BUT IF YOU'VE EVER SMELLED IT, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT NEVER CHANGE --

KLAKLAKETAKLA

ACKLACKLACKETY

--LIKE THE RULES OF BERNIE CORNFELDT, MY EDITOR: "USE WORDS. TYPE NEAT. COME BACK NEXT WEEK."

TYPEWRITERS, HOWEVER, **DO** NEED A CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME...

BERNIE'LL NEVER ACCEPT THIS MESS. I'VE BROKEN CARDINAL RULE NUMBER TWO.

TIME TO BREAK DOWN AND PUT IN A NEW RIBBON.

I KNOW THERE'S ONE IN HERE SOMEPLACE. SAW IT LAST TIME WE LOOKED FOR THE KEY TO KP'S BICYCLE LOCK.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO SNACK ON, DENTON? HOW ABOUT GRAPES?

I DON'T KEEP SNACKS IN MY UNDERWEAR DRAWER, MAZE.

LOOKS LIKE THAT RIBBON'S SEEN BETTER DAYS.

SO HAVE I, BUT WE'VE ***BOTH*** STILL GOT PLENTY OF GOOD WORDS LEFT IN US!

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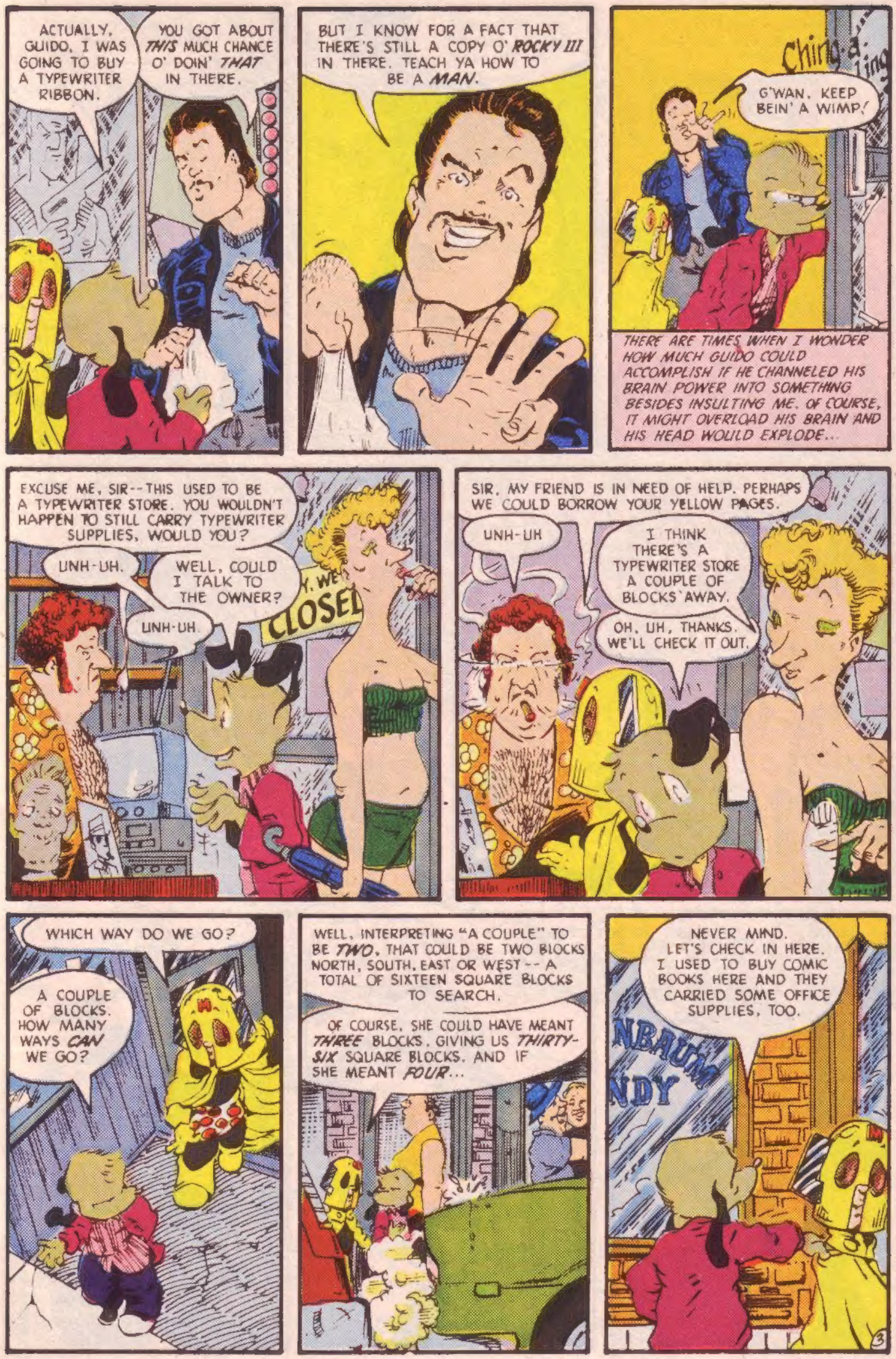
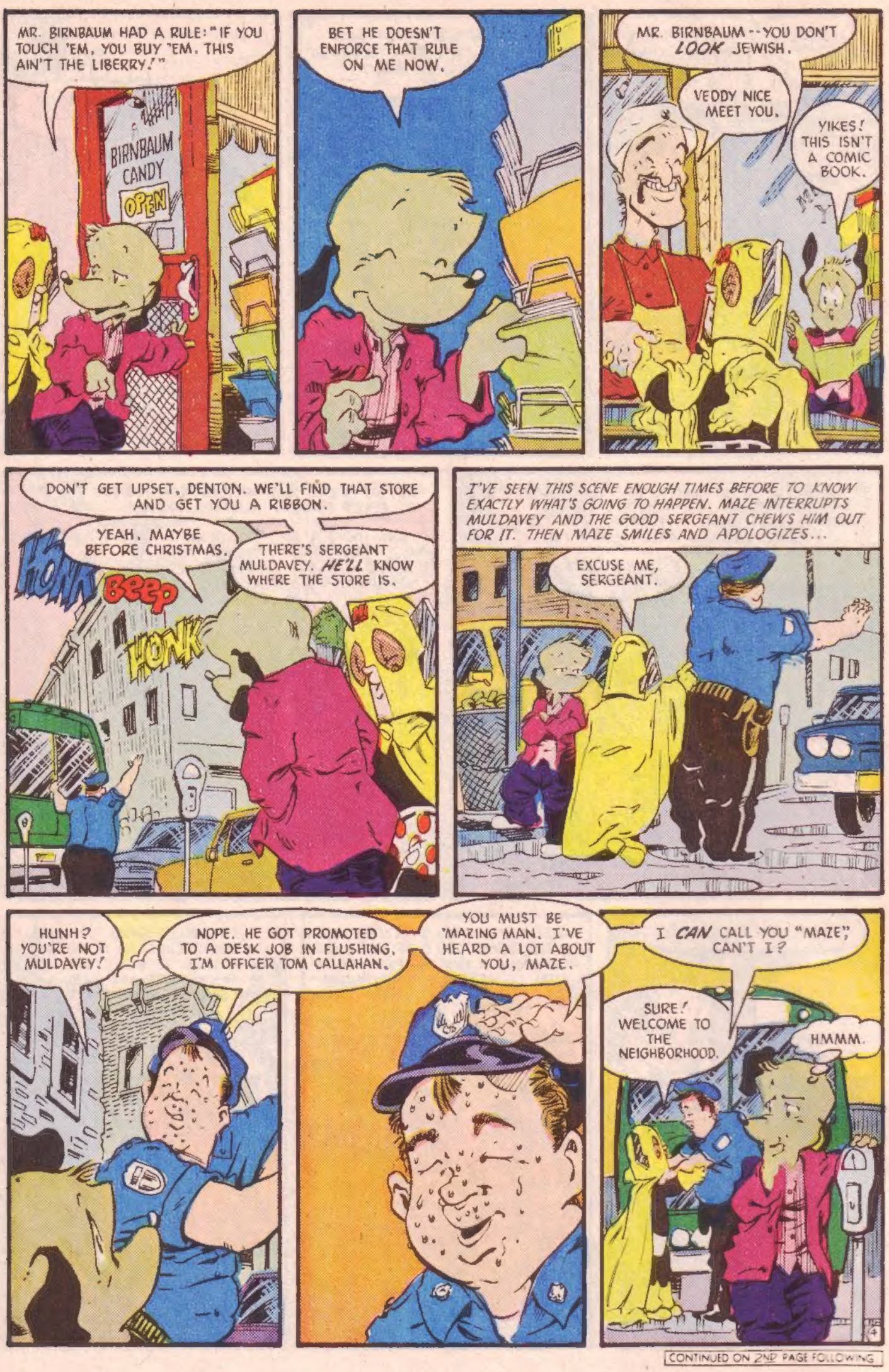
BESIDES, I HAVEN'T GOT ANY MONEY TO BUY A NEW ONE.
IT'S A CATCH-22, MAZE. I CAN'T GET PAID TILL I WRITE THE SCRIPT AND I CAN'T WRITE THE SCRIPT TILL I GET PAID.
AH, LITTLE WORN RIBBON, I HAD SUCH FAITH IN YOU AND LOOK WHAT YOU DID TO ME.
SHUV stuff SHUV stuff SHUV stuff
WHY DON'T YOU CHECK YOUR JACKET POCKETS? SOMETIMES MONEY GETS STUFFED IN THEM AND FORGOTTEN ABOUT.
YEAH AND MAYBE THE TOOTH FAIRY FOUND ONE OF MY OLD TEETH AND FINALLY PAID OFF... WITH INTEREST.
OH, DENTON, YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A PESSIMIST. I'LL BET THAT YOU FIND EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED IN THAT POCKET.
SURE. IF WHAT I NEED IS A HANDFUL OF SMUSHED GRAPES WRAPPED UP IN A TEN-DOLLAR BILL.
SOMEDAY I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO REPAY ALL THE MONEY MAZE HAS LOANED ME. OF COURSE, I ALSO BELIEVE THE DODGERS WILL MOVE BACK TO BROOKLYN...
THANKS FOR THE LOAN, MAZE.
WHAT LOAN?
THE GRAPES.
OH. HEE-HEE.
THE STORE IS RIGHT OVER-- HUNH?!
ALL STAR Video!
'EY, POOCH-PUSS. THEY JUST GOT A NEW COPY O' "BENJI GOES TO BOSTON"! COMIN' IN TO PICK IT UP?
2


ACTUALLY, GUIDO, I WAS GOING TO BUY A TYPEWRITER RIBBON.
YOU GOT ABOUT *THIS* MUCH CHANCE O' DOIN' *THAT* IN THERE.
BUT I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT THERE'S STILL A COPY O' *ROCKY III* IN THERE. TEACH YA HOW TO BE A *MAN*.
Ching-a-ling
G'WAN, KEEP BEIN' A WIMP!
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WONDER HOW MUCH GUIDO COULD ACCOMPLISH IF HE CHANNELED HIS BRAIN POWER INTO SOMETHING BESIDES INSULTING ME. OF COURSE, IT MIGHT OVERLOAD HIS BRAIN AND HIS HEAD WOULD EXPLODE...
EXCUSE ME, SIR--THIS USED TO BE A TYPEWRITER STORE. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO STILL CARRY TYPEWRITER SUPPLIES, WOULD YOU?
UNH-UH.
WELL, COULD I TALK TO THE OWNER?
UNH-UH.
CLOSED
SIR, MY FRIEND IS IN NEED OF HELP. PERHAPS WE COULD BORROW YOUR YELLOW PAGES.
UNH-UH
I THINK THERE'S A TYPEWRITER STORE A COUPLE OF BLOCKS AWAY.
OH, UH, THANKS. WE'LL CHECK IT OUT.
WHICH WAY DO WE GO?
A COUPLE OF BLOCKS. HOW MANY WAYS *CAN* WE GO?
WELL, INTERPRETING "A COUPLE" TO BE *TWO*, THAT COULD BE TWO BLOCKS NORTH, SOUTH, EAST OR WEST--A TOTAL OF SIXTEEN SQUARE BLOCKS TO SEARCH.
OF COURSE, SHE COULD HAVE MEANT *THREE* BLOCKS, GIVING US *THIRTY-SIX* SQUARE BLOCKS. AND IF SHE MEANT *FOUR*...
NEVER MIND. LET'S CHECK IN HERE. I USED TO BUY COMIC BOOKS HERE AND THEY CARRIED SOME OFFICE SUPPLIES, TOO.
3


MR. BIRNBAUM HAD A RULE: "IF YOU TOUCH 'EM, YOU BUY 'EM. THIS AIN'T THE LIBERRY!"
BIRNBAUM CANDY
OPEN
BET HE DOESN'T ENFORCE THAT RULE ON ME NOW.
MR. BIRNBAUM--YOU DON'T LOOK JEWISH.
VEDDY NICE MEET YOU.
YIKES! THIS ISN'T A COMIC BOOK.
DON'T GET UPSET, DENTON. WE'LL FIND THAT STORE AND GET YOU A RIBBON.
YEAH, MAYBE BEFORE CHRISTMAS.
THERE'S SERGEANT MULDAVEY. HE'LL KNOW WHERE THE STORE IS.
HONK
BEEP
HONK
I'VE SEEN THIS SCENE ENOUGH TIMES BEFORE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. MAZE INTERRUPTS MULDAVEY AND THE GOOD SERGEANT CHEWS HIM OUT FOR IT. THEN MAZE SMILES AND APOLOGIZES...
EXCUSE ME, SERGEANT.
HUNH? YOU'RE NOT MULDAVEY!
NOPE. HE GOT PROMOTED TO A DESK JOB IN FLUSHING. I'M OFFICER TOM CALLAHAN.
YOU MUST BE 'MAZING MAN. I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU, MAZE.
I CAN CALL YOU "MAZE", CAN'T I?
SURE! WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
HMMM.

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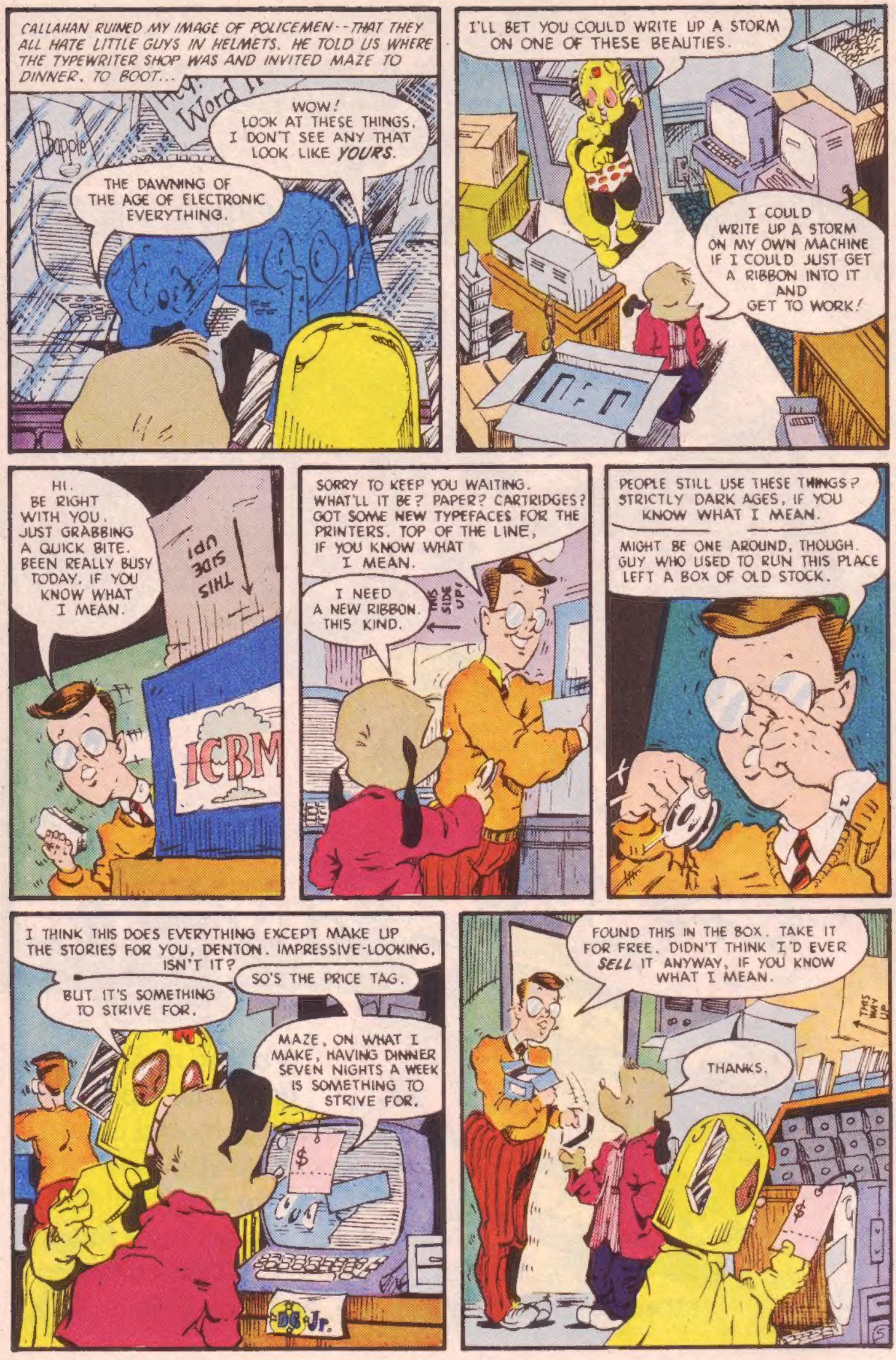
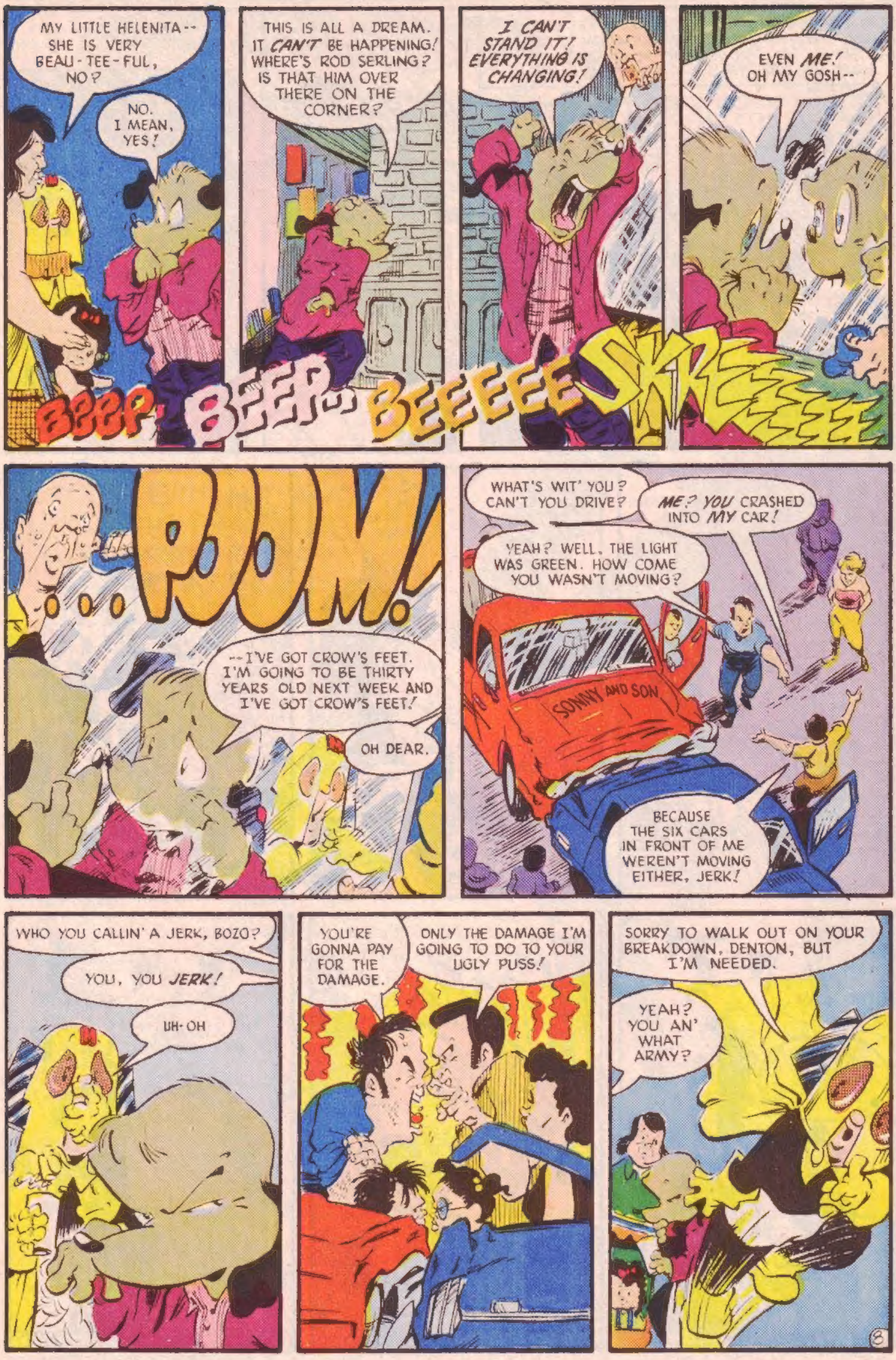

CALLAHAN RUINED MY IMAGE OF POLICEMEN--THAT THEY ALL HATE LITTLE GUYS IN HELMETS. HE TOLD US WHERE THE TYPEWRITER SHOP WAS AND INVITED MAZE TO DINNER. TO BOOT...
Hey! Word P
Bopple
WOW! LOOK AT THESE THINGS. I DON'T SEE ANY THAT LOOK LIKE YOURS.
THE DAWNING OF THE AGE OF ELECTRONIC EVERYTHING.
I'LL BET YOU COULD WRITE UP A STORM ON ONE OF THESE BEAUTIES.
I COULD WRITE UP A STORM ON MY OWN MACHINE IF I COULD JUST GET A RIBBON INTO IT AND GET TO WORK!
HI. BE RIGHT WITH YOU. JUST GRABBING A QUICK BITE. BEEN REALLY BUSY TODAY. IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
THIS SIDE UP!
ICBM
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. WHAT'LL IT BE? PAPER? CARTRIDGES? GOT SOME NEW TYPEFACES FOR THE PRINTERS. TOP OF THE LINE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
I NEED A NEW RIBBON. THIS KIND.
THIS SIDE UP!
PEOPLE STILL USE THESE THINGS? STRICTLY DARK AGES, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
MIGHT BE ONE AROUND, THOUGH. GUY WHO USED TO RUN THIS PLACE LEFT A BOX OF OLD STOCK.
I THINK THIS DOES EVERYTHING EXCEPT MAKE UP THE STORIES FOR YOU, DENTON. IMPRESSIVE-LOOKING, ISN'T IT?
SO'S THE PRICE TAG.
BUT IT'S SOMETHING TO STRIVE FOR.
MAZE, ON WHAT I MAKE, HAVING DINNER SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK IS SOMETHING TO STRIVE FOR.
$
DC Jr.
FOUND THIS IN THE BOX. TAKE IT FOR FREE. DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER SELL IT ANYWAY, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
THIS SIDE UP!
THANKS.
$

MY PLEASURE. REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU DECIDE TO UPGRADE. STATE OF THE ART IS OUR MOTTO. IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
THAT'S ONE STATE I DOUBT I'LL EVER VISIT, BUT THANKS ANYWAY.
BYE-BYE. SEE YOU AROUND. IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. HEE-HEE
We're Closed, sorry.
WHEW. TOUGH CUSTOMERS. JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE THE WORLD THE WAY IT IS.
THIS SIDE UP!
ICBM
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DENTON? YOU GOT THE RIBBON... AND IT DIDN'T EVEN COST ANYTHING.
EVERYTHING'S CHANGED, MAZE. I FEEL LIKE RIP VAN WINKLE.
NO. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A LONG BEARD. BESIDES NOT EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED, THERE'S RAOUL, THE HOT DOG MAN.
HONK BEEP HONK
HOW ABOUT A HOT DOG? MY TREAT.
NO. THANKS. ONE THING THAT PROBABLY HASN'T CHANGED IS THAT I GET HEARTBURN EVERY TIME I EAT ONE OF THOSE GREASY FRANKS.
MAYBE THAT WOULD CHANGE, TOO.
I'M NOT UP TO TEMPTING FATE.
ONE SODA, BOSS? SIXTY-FIVE CENTS, BOSS.
YO! THIS AIN'T THE LIBERRY!
:SIGH:
CATASTROPHE ON EARTH!
IN THIS ISSUE: WE KILL 'EM! DESTROY 'EM AND ALSO WHIMILATE 'EM
Tap Tap
AND YOU AREN'T MR. BIRNBAUM!
KEEP IT. BERNIE CHANGED MY SCRIPT... AGAIN!
DENTON! WAIT FOR ME!
6

EVERYBODY ASKS ME WHERE I GET THE IDEAS FOR THE STORIES I WRITE. SOMETIME I OUGHT TO TELL THEM THE TRUTH--THAT WHAT THEY READ IS NEVER WHAT I WROTE. BERNIE CORNFELDT'S ONLY RULE ON EDITING SEEMS TO BE: CHANGE EVERYTHING!
DENTON!
HEY, BOSS. WAIT A SECOND, BOSS!
THE CHANGE, BOSS! THE CHANGE!
YOU'RE REALLY OVERREACTING, DENTON. THE WHOLE WORLD HASN'T CHANGED OVERNIGHT. LOOK AROUND. SOME THINGS HAVE BEEN THE SAME FOR YEARS AND WILL BE FOR YEARS TO COME.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. LOOK!
THERE'S SEÑORA TIRADO WITH HELENITA. CUTE LITTLE BALD-AS-A-CUEBALL HELENITA.
UM.
SEÑORA!
MEESTER FEEXX. IS BE LONG TIME SINCE I SEE YOU, NO? YOU WANT TO TAKE MY JUANITA TO MOVIES, YES?
UH, WELL. NOT THIS WEEK. MAYBE SOON.
BEEP BEEP
BEEP
I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW HELENITA'S DOING. ANY HAIR YET?
OH, MEESTER FEEXX, IS BIG MIRACLE! ONE DAY-- POOF!
WOOF-WOOF?
UH-UH-UH-UH
7


MY LITTLE HELENITA-- SHE IS VERY BEAU-TEE-FUL, NO?
NO. I MEAN, YES!
THIS IS ALL A DREAM. IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING! WHERE'S ROD SERLING? IS THAT HIM OVER THERE ON THE CORNER?
I CAN'T STAND IT! EVERYTHING IS CHANGING!
EVEN ME! OH MY GOSH--
BEEP BEEP BEEEEEE SKREEEEE
POOM!
--I'VE GOT CROW'S FEET. I'M GOING TO BE THIRTY YEARS OLD NEXT WEEK AND I'VE GOT CROW'S FEET!
OH DEAR.
WHAT'S WIT' YOU? CAN'T YOU DRIVE?
ME? YOU CRASHED INTO MY CAR!
YEAH? WELL, THE LIGHT WAS GREEN. HOW COME YOU WASN'T MOVING?
SONNY AND SON
BECAUSE THE SIX CARS IN FRONT OF ME WEREN'T MOVING EITHER, JERK!
WHO YOU CALLIN' A JERK, BOZO?
YOU, YOU JERK!
UH-OH
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THE DAMAGE.
ONLY THE DAMAGE I'M GOING TO DO TO YOUR UGLY PUSS!
SORRY TO WALK OUT ON YOUR BREAKDOWN, DENTON, BUT I'M NEEDED.
YEAH? YOU AN' WHAT ARMY?
8

WELL, HERE'S ONE THING THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE: MAZE CHARGING INTO A HOT SITUATION TO PREVENT A FIGHT. ANY SECOND NOW THE COMBATANTS WILL AGREE ON ONE THING--TO CLOBBER MAZE...
BOYS, BOYS, BOYS. LET'S COOL OFF AND TALK.
WHO INVITED YOU, WEIRDO?
BUTT OUT, TIN-HEAD, OR YOU'RE GONNA EAT THAT HELMET!
ALL RIGHT, I GIVE UP! IT'S TIME FOR THAT TO CHANGE, TOO...
EXCUSE ME A SECOND, SENORA. THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO.
UM...YOU'RE SURE IT'S NOT BRILLO?
NO. IS REAL HAIR.
JUST MAKING SURE.
COME ON, MAZE. LET'S GO HOME.
WHAT? ANOTHER BUTTINSKY?!
KRAK
SPAK
Kick!
HELLO, DARKNESS, MY OLD FRIEND...
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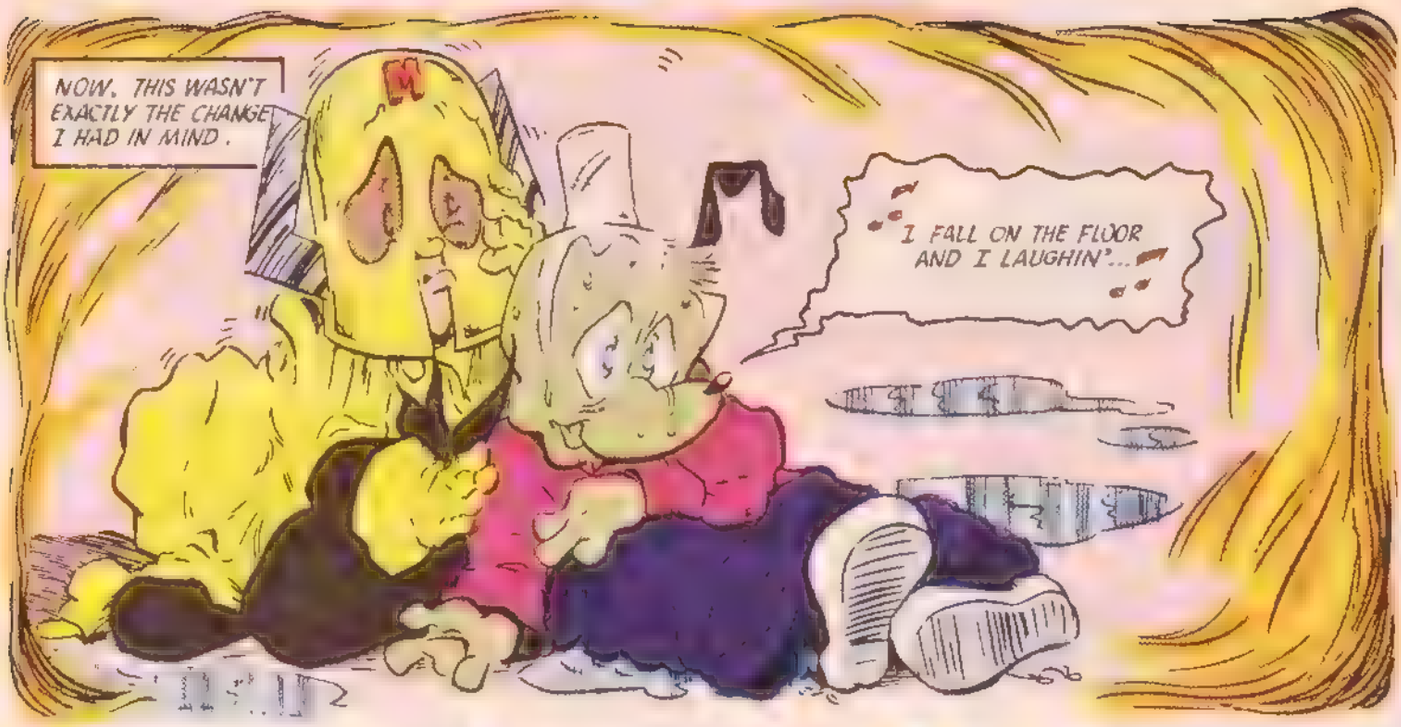
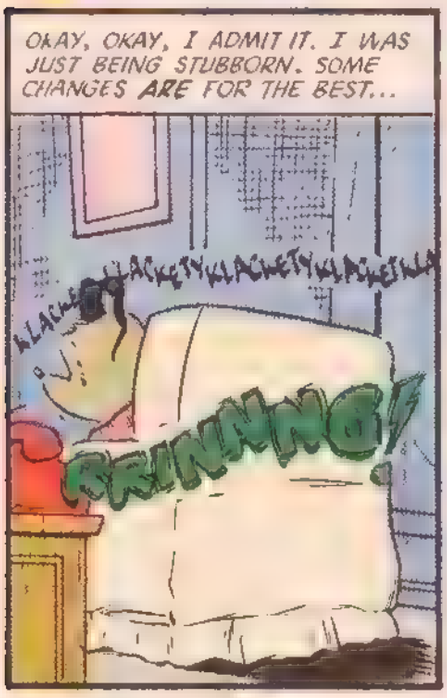
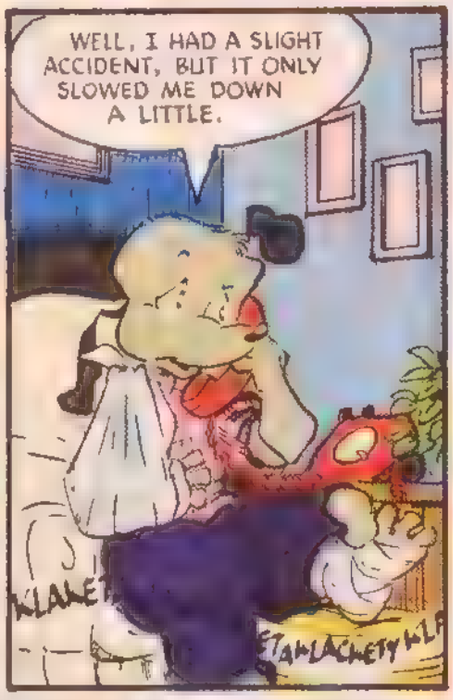
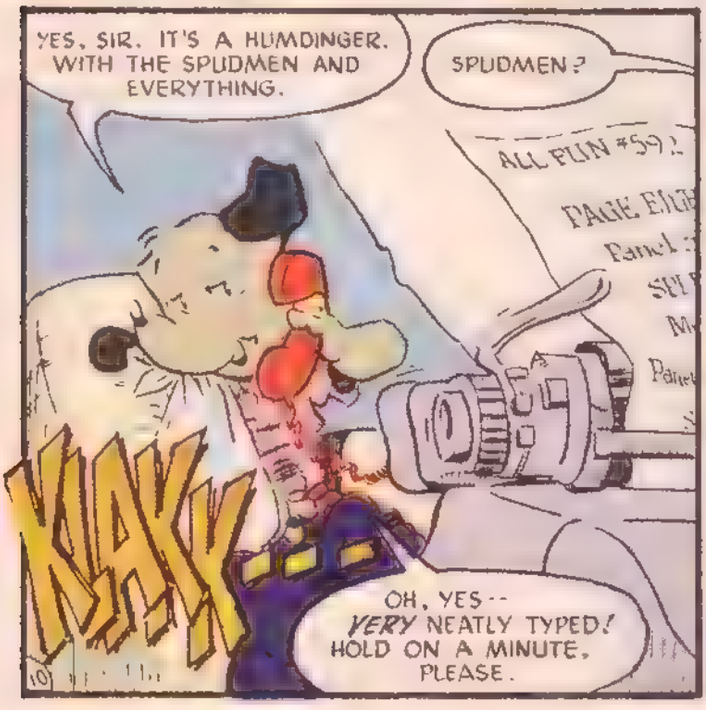
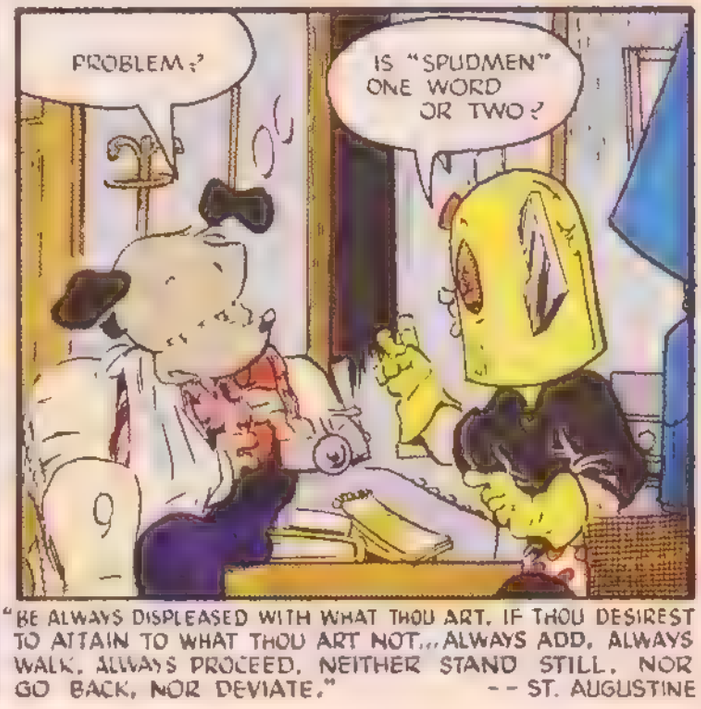


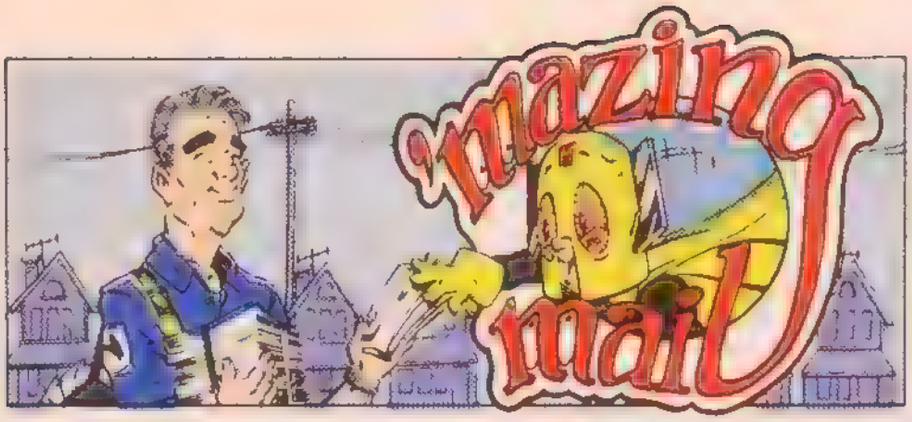

OKAY, OKAY, I ADMIT IT. I WAS JUST BEING STUBBORN. SOME CHANGES ARE FOR THE BEST...
KLACKETYKLACKETYKLACKETYKLACKETYKLA
GRINNING!




YES, SIR. IT'S A HUMDINGER. WITH THE SPUDMEN AND EVERYTHING.
SPUDMEN?
ALL FUN #59!
KAK...
OH, YES-- VERY NEATLY TYPED! HOLD ON A MINUTE, PLEASE.



"BE ALWAYS DISPLEASED WITH WHAT THOU ART. IF THOU DESIREST TO ATTAIN TO WHAT THOU ART NOT...ALWAYS ADD, ALWAYS WALK, ALWAYS PROCEED, NEITHER STAND STILL, NOR GO BACK, NOR DEVIATE." -- ST. AUGUSTINE



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L 2510

DC Doers

Congratulations! 'MAZING MAN has won the first annual DAVIS DOUBLE-BAG AWARD. Yes, this award is given to only one title a year, a title whose value can't be measured in dollars and cents but by what one gets out of it.

As the recipient of this award, you will soon be receiving two comic book bags. Yes, these bags are suitable for framing or wrapping fish, and should be hung on the wall for all to see. You could even put it on the cover: "Winner of the Davis Double-Bag Award!" Go for it!

MARC DAVIS
219 Candlewick Lane
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

How about if we just print your letter, Marc?

On a more serious note about awards, we were happy to hear that 'MAZING MAN has been nominated for Best New Series in the annual Jack Kirby Awards, which are voted for by people in the comics industry. Stephen and I are honored to be recognized by our fellow comics professionals.

And speaking of such recognition...

*****

Dear Bob and Stephen,

I love it! I love it! I love it! 'MAZING MAN is easily one of the most thoughtful, entertaining comics on the market and I wish all concerned much success with it.

Keep it up, guys, and thanks for bringing the "comic" back to comics'!

In appreciation,
JACKSON GUICE
That "Other" Company
New York, NY 10016

Thanks for the support. Now if we could just get all the people reading your book to read 'MAZING MAN, too...

*****

Hi, Guys,

Where did you meet her??!!??

There I was standing in line flipping through the pages of my favorite magazine and right on page two was MY grandmother! They look the same, they talk the same, they stand the same, they make the same funny faces. You must go to her knitting club. Or are you in the aerobic swimming class she coaches?

Anyway, give my love to grandma if you see her before I do.

STEVE HOLYER
308 E. Lakeshore Dr.
Carriere, MS 39426

Yours isn't the only grandma who looks like the one in MM #8, Steve. In fact, we're beginning to think there's a grandma clone factory someplace that's churning them out!

*****

Dear 'Mazing Ones,

Why did grandma keep referring to Denton as "brother" (with quotes around it? Is he not a bona fide part of the family as we had been previously led to believe?

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ont. M9L 2R9

Grandma is KP's paternal grandmother. Her son married KP's mother, then deserted his wife and daughter. KP's mother remarried, and husband number two is Denton's father. Thus, KP's last name is Watson and Denton's is Fixx, but they are brother and sister (or half-brother and half-sister, depending on which dictionary you consult for definitions).

*****

Dear Bob, Stephen, and Karl,

As one of those underprivileged people who can't buy MAZE at the local newsstand, I had to subscribe to it. Unfortunately, my subscription began with #3. Fortunately, I was one of the lucky ones who sent in my subscription form in time to receive a prized autographed copy of #1. At least that's what I thought when I opened my mailbox and found 'MAZING MAN #1 in it. But did I, your faithful fan, get a nice collector's item copy with the signatures of three of the most talented men in the business? No, mine had infantile scrawlings all over the first page! (Seriously, though, your handwriting isn't too atrocious ... except perhaps for Bob's.)

Stephen's art sure has improved since #1. Guido, in particular, looks different. He's better looking in the later issues, but I think I like him more as a big, ugly guy who's starting to lose some hair. It suits his macho image more. You see, a whole bunch of young men who consider themselves studs get terrified when they discover they are the not so-proud owners of receding hairlines. Then they have to prove to the world that hair is the only thing they're losing. This is done by acting macho in order to proclaim their masculinity, like Guido does. (Of course, this is all a theory. I hope no baldies out there take umbrage.)

SANDY (THE THEORETICAL) KAT
Box 386
APO San Francisco 96555
Kwajalein, Marshall Islands

As the not-so-proud owner of a receding hairline, I've got a better theory about what happens when you start losing your hair (and it's been borne out by some of the other guys I know): You don't lose any hair ... it migrates to other parts of your body! All the hair that used to grow on the front of my head now grows on my back. Eventually, based on this theory and the amount of hair we've seen on the rest of Guido's body in recent issues, the Big G is going to be bald as a cueball!

*****

Dear Alan,

'MAZING MAN is the most light, optimistic, appealing, and funny comic book I have ever read. Other series have had one or, at best, some combination of these elements, but no other comic has ever captured the particular spirit of this book. It can best be described as the light-hearted, optimistic parody of the tragedies of the common Joe (or in this case, the common Sigfried).

I'd like to touch on a few things that have been buzzing around in my head, nagging at me to get out so they can run around in someone else's.

1) Please give me your solemn promise you won't let Bob or Stephen do anything silly like show Maze without his helmet. There isn't any reason we need to ever know what he looks like.

2) Please promise you'll never let Stephen leave 'MAZING MAN. His art is so cute, so adorable, so Carl Barks-of-the-superhero-set-ish, that I don't want to imagine living without it. If he left, I'd leave, too.

3) Roughly the same thing for Bob.

4) Roughly the same thing for Karl.

5) Roughly, etc. for the other Bob, who ranks as one of the most creative and innovative letterers in the history of the medium.

6) Ditto et al.

7) Please consider a 'MAZING MAN ANNUAL, maybe for the fall or winter.

Thanks for listening, and thanks for some really premium entertainment.

DAVID ANDERSON
8812 Hillswick Trail
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

We can safely promise #'s 1, 2, 3, and 5, Dave. Karl's other work—particularly on the forthcoming HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE and the LEGENDS miniseries (inking George Pérez and John Byrne, respectively) have taken him away from us, except for our covers. But we've gotten some great work from Bob Smith, Gary Martin, and our newest recruit, Craig Boldman. As for a 'MAZING MAN ANNUAL, well, we'd love to do it, but there are some folks down at the other end of the hall who aren't too happy with how MM has been selling and we doubt they'd give the nod for such an issue.

*****

Which brings us to the news as reported in

THE COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE that 'MAZING MAN #12 (this issue, obviously) would be the last unless the sales increased dramatically. As I write this, we are still awaiting orders on #11, keeping our fingers crossed and hoping for a miracle. But even before those orders arrive, the office has been bombarded by mail protesting our demise ... including the telegram which follows that was delivered to DC president and publisher Jenette Kahn while I was in her office for a meeting that had nothing to do with 'MAZING MAN

Huge error cancelling 'MAZING MAN One title with legs. Sells to new people, those attracted by DARK KNIGHT. Successful here. Outsells X FACTOR. Other shops not doing job. All double order. Only MAZE and LOVE & ROCKETS have potential to reach mainstream

QUALITY COMICS
Somerville, NJ

And that wasn't the only mail Jenette got about 'MM

Dear Ms. Kahn,

I am a balding, 30-ish professional living in the wilds of central New Jersey. Among other things, I read comic books. I have never written to a comic publisher before, but an article in THE COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE has prompted me to take keyboard in hand to kvetch a bit

I don't read much in the way of superhero titles, preferring instead the less "mainstream" books. One of my favorites is 'MAZING MAN, which I have bought and read and re read since #1 came out. Now I read that MAZE has been cancelled. I beg you to reconsider

'MAZING MAN is one of the funniest, most whimsical, most likeable comics being published today. It's about real, though perhaps eccentric, people

There's a place for MAZE among the stacks of books with technicolor, muscle bound heroes. I realize DC is in business to make money and MAZE hasn't been a hot seller like THE SHADOW or DARK KNIGHT, but please, follow the example of Grant Tinker at NBC and give a quality product a chance to build its audience. Cut back to bi-monthly if you must, but keep MAZE in print

GEORGE KISH
19 Heather Dr
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

And

To: Jenette Kahn, Publisher,
DC Comics Inc
TELL ME IT ISN'T SO!

Please, you can't be cancelling this delightfully different book, can you? Tell me it's just a bad dream or a misunderstood memo Reading an issue of 'MAZING MAN always brightens my day. In fact, I save it until I'm a little down to read it because its art, its humor, and Maze's optimism are always guaranteed to cheer me up

What can I do to change your collective mind? Raise the price, make it a direct-only book, but please, please, please don't cancel it! 'MAZING MAN is one of the finest things to happen to comics in years. Please don't deprive us of the best just because it's taking some people a while longer than the rest to figure that out. I'll cry until I shrivel up—and it'll be on YOUR HANDS!

MIRANDA BURCHESS
1004A Westover Dr
Greenville, NC 27834

Actually, our fate is in YOUR hands, as we've said. If everybody who's been buying 'MAZING MAN recruits one new reader (who buys his or her own copy), this magazine would be assured of a long, happy life in the direct-sales market. If that has happened by the time you read this (and we sincerely wish it would), we'll be back. If not, well, you know the answer to that one.

Before closing, let's thank the rest of the folks who wrote this month.

KURT NYEHOLT
CHARLIE COCKETT
ANDY EVANSON
ANI YODAAT
GREG W. MYERS
MICHAEL PICKENS
TOM LINEHAN
MATTHEW-LOUIS M. LEVIN
HARRY ROBINETTE, JR
GODFREY DANIELS
MIKE BROWNING
ANDY SVED
CHARLES D. BROWN
CHARLES DAVID HASKELL
CHRIS BRUMFIELD
KEITH LEDWITH
AL McCARTY
CEA
ANDREW PATRICK RAPOSA

* * * * *

BE REAL, BOB!

NEXT ISSUE: (Hey, we've got to be optimistic!): Maze decides to make a home movie for a local-access tv station. Guido decides to get a real job. And what of Brenda's condition? Be here!

WE'RE HISTORY! Love, Barbara

Once upon a time a long time ago, a young man named Stephen DeStefano wrote me letters with pictures of himself and his dog on the last page. I could see the kid had talent and told him someday he would be drawing comic books. I'm glad we got the chance to see that dream realized together, Stephen.

Thanks to Karl Kesel, Bob Lappan, Tom Ziuko, Nansi Hoolahan, Gary Martin, Bob Smith, Craig Boldman, Frank Miller, and Barbara Randall for helping us along the way. And to Dick Giordano for giving us a shot. And especially to Alan Gold for making us do it better than we thought we had to.

That's it, folks. See ya

—BOB ROZAKIS

HE'S STRONG, SMART AND RELENTLESS...
Shrewd and cunning.
A powerful fighter.
The best detective the world has ever seen.
The very best.
But at what price?
Coming soon:
BATMAN YEAR ONE
A special 4 part story by Frank Miller and Dave Mazzucchelli
DC

'mazing man
created fresh daily by
STEPHEN DeSTEFANO
&
BOB ROZAKIS...
30
n' brought to market eventually by
CRAIG BOLDMAN inkist NANSI HOOLAHAN colorist
BOB LAPPAN letterist BARBARA RANDALL editrix
...FREED HIM TO SEARCH FOR A ONE-ARMED MAN HE SAW LEAVE THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
WONDER IF THERE'S A MARKET FOR A COMIC BOOK LIKE THIS?
NAH HE DOESN'T WEAR A COSTUME
HI, MAZE. BEEN ON PATROL? GET BILLY'S SNEAKERS OFF THE TELEPHONE WIRE YET?
TONIGHT'S EPISODE: "LAST SECOND OF A BIG DREAM"!
MAZE?
I'LL BITE. ARE YOU PRACTICING BEING THE DARK KNIGHT OR TRYING OUT FOR LINEBACKER WITH THE JETS?
NEITHER, MY GOOD FRIEND I COME MERELY AS AN EMISSARY FROM BELOW.
BELOW.
THE HUMBLE ABODE OF GUIDO GARIBALDI -- WHERE YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED
DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT TODAY IS MY THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY?
ASK ME NO QUESTIONS, I'LL TELL YOU NO LIES WATCH YOUR FOOT. TAKE YOUR CANE

SKWEEEEEEEK
GOSH, MAZE, DID GUIDO BLOW A FUSE?
HEE HEE. I DON'T THINK SO.
click
SURPRISE!
EVERYBODY HAPPY NOW? FINE. SEE YOU LATER.
JUST KIDDING.
WERE YOU SURPRISED, DENTON?
ASK ME NO QUESTIONS, MAZE
HEY, YOU NEVER BEEN IN HERE BEFORE, HUNH, SPORT? LIVE IT UP.
MAKE YOURSELF TO HOME.
ISN'T IT NICE THE WAY GUIDO DECORATED FOR THE PARTY?
DO IT BY YOURSELF, GUIDO? OR DID BURGLARS STEAL THE REST OF YOUR FURNITURE?
HEH-HEH FUNNY GUY
HAVE A SEAT BEST CHAIR IN THE HOUSE
THE ONLY CHAIR IN THE HOUSE
I'M HONOR--
WOOOF
DENTON, ARE YOU OKAY?
THROW ME A LIFE PRESERVER.
2

HOW'S ABOUT A BREW, BIRT'DAY BOY?
I'LL PASS. I'M NOT MUCH OF A BEER DRINKER.
THEN A MIXED DRINK! C'MON. IT'S YER BIRT'DAY!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. THINK YOU CAN HANDLE A BLOODY MARY?
NO SWEAT. YOU JUST SIT THERE AND ENJOY THE PARTY.
SO, LITTLE BROTHER, HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE THE BIG THREE-OH?
THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE, YOU KNOW! THIRTY YEARS OLD!
THAT'S RIGHT, OLDER SISTER. I'M 30...AND IT FEELS EXACTLY THE SAME AS BEING 29 YESTERDAY-- EXCEPT MY FOOT ISN'T THROBBING AS MUCH.
THAT'S GREAT.
Pat-pat Pat...
HERE YA GO, SPORT. CHEERS!
THANKS, GUIDO. HEY, SIS--A TOAST TO ME ON MY BIRTHDAY.
EYUK! WHAT'S IN THIS?
KETCHUP SALT AND PEPPER .. AND BEER.
BEER!?
DON'T KNOCK IT, BROTHER DEAR. YOU GET USED TO IT PRETTY FAST
ONLY THE FINEST INGREDIENTS IN GUIDO'S MIXED DRINKS.

DO YOU THINK THE CAKE WILL BE OKAY HERE, BRENDA? OR SHOULD IT BE REFRIGERATED?
OH, WHATEVER YOU THINK IS BEST, MAZE. -SIGH-
THEN I'LL LEAVE IT OUT. I'D HAVE TO TAKE OUT TOO MANY BEER BOTTLES TO GET IT INTO THE FRIDGE
LISTEN, DENTON I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, BUT KEEP IT UNDER YOUR HAT.
OH? ARE WE GETTING PARTY HATS? AND HORNS? I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST MAZE
MUNCH MUNCH
I'M SERIOUS. Y'SEE, BRENDA AND ME. WELL WE MIGHT BE PREGNANT.
TIME FOR THE BEST PART OF THE PARTY-- PRESENTS!
THAT'S GREAT!
YEAH, AIN'T IT?
DON'T SAY ANYTHING, THOUGH, BECAUSE IT'S TOO SOON TO KNOW FOR SURE
NOT ONE ITTY-BITTY SYLLABLE
THIS ONE'S FROM EDDIE 'AND BRENDA.
BRENDA AND ME.
GEE, THANKS, GUYS
SAVE THE WRAPPING PAPER.
-YAWN
LET ME HELP
WHAT CAN IT BE?
PAPER TWO PACKAGES.
ONE FROM BRENDA, ONE FROM EDDIE HOW SWEET
WHERE'D THEY GET THIS WEIRD COMPUTER PAPER? BRENDA'S OFFICE, MAYBE?

WE CAN REUSE THE WRAPPING PAPER
GRANDMA WOULD BE PROUD.
ANY MORE RIDGIES?
NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO REUSE SOME I ATE.
DENTON, THAT'S GROSS!
THERE'RE MORE CHIPS IN THE KITCHEN LET ME GET THEM.
IF YOU INSIST
ED. IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH BRENDA? SHE'S WAITING ON ME.
WELL, DON'T TELL HER I TOLD YOU, BUT -:BSSSPSSS...
I'M OLD! OLDOLDOLDOLDOLDOLD!
WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE NAPKINS, GUIDO? IN HERE?
HUNH?
KLICK
NO! NOT THERE. THAT'S MY--
--LIBRARY!
PLAP!
'EY, WHY WASTE MONEY ON BOOKCASES? BESIDES, I AIN'T GOT THAT MANY DISHES!
MMM-HMMM
MM-HMMM.
I ONLY BUY THAT FOR THE INTERVIEWS. HEH-HEH

MORE CHIPS FOR THE BIRTHDAY BOY.
THANKS SO MUCH, BRENDA.
THIS ONE'S FROM KP
UH. SIS -- DO YOU THINK YOU USED ENOUGH TAPE? I CAN STILL GET INTO THIS ONE WITHOUT A HACKSAW!
GO GO
SAVE THE PAPER.
CRUMPL CRUMPL
CRUMPL CRUMP
HERE YA GO, BABE
I DON'T THINK I COULD GET THIS OPEN IF I HAD FOUR GOOD HANDS
OH. NEW RIBBONS FOR THE TYPEWRITER...
WHAT A NEAT GIFT!
... THE WRONG KIND OF RIBBONS, BUT IT'S THE THOUGHT.
CLASP!
:BWAHHHH: THEY CAN'T BE THE WRONG KIND. THEY'RE THE KIND I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET!
CRUMP
GO GO
WHY DOES KP HAVE A CHOCOLATE MOUSTACHE?
FROM HER DRINK. A BRANDY ALEXANDER.
DARE I ASK WHAT'S IN IT?
SNAK SNAK
LOW-FAT MILK... BOSCO... AND, OF COURSE, BEER!
BLEHH! NO WONDER SHE'S CRYING.
I DON'T THINK KP SHOULD HAVE ANY MORE TO DRINK, GUIDO. UNLESS YOU WANT TO MAKE HER SOME COFFEE.
HOW 'BOUT SOME IRISH COFFEE? I GOTTA RECIPE
LEAVE OUT THE BEER.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE THE COFFEE
DON'T GO OPENIN' ANY MORE O' MY LIBRARY CABINETS, OKAY?
JUST LET BRENDA DO WHAT SHE WANTS, BIG G. SEE, SHE'S BSZZZPZZZZ...
SO, YA PARKED A BUN IN THE OVEN, ANH?
HMMMM.
MY BABY BROTHER IS THIRTY.' I'M OLD I'M DECREPIT!
OH, KP. COME ON YOU'RE NOT THAT OLD
AHHH SOMEBODY CAREZZZZZZ
OMIGOSH.
WHEW!
THE POOR DEAR. SHE JUST NEEDS TO SLEEP OFF ALL THOSE GUIDO SPECIALS.
IT'S OKAY, KP. YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS.
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
SPEAKING OF FRIENDS, I HEAR YOU'VE GOT ONE. KITCHY-KITCHY-KOO. HEE-HEE.

'EY. HE'S OPENIN' MY PRESENT.
COMPUTER SEX GAME? HOW STUPID!
YA ASK ME, YOU COULD USE IT!
SEX
I CAN'T USE IT. I DON'T HAVE A COMPU..
TER!
UM.
LET ME HELP YOU WITH THIS ONE, PAL. REMEMBER, SAVE THE PAPER.
OH. WOW
CLICK!
HAPPY BIRTH DAY TO YOU.
MMMM YOU FEEL GREAT
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU..
YOU BIG GOOF YOU TOLD, DIDN'T YOU?
OOOF!
Punt
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR DENTON, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

WHY'D YOU DO *THAT*?

CALL IT ONE OF THE UNPREDICTABLE MOODS OF A POSSIBLY PREGNANT WOMAN.

WHAT GREAT FRIENDZZZZZZ...

zzzzz zzzzz

'EY, THE GIANTS ARE PLAYIN' TONIGHT. KEEP IT DOWN SO I CAN HEAR THE SCORE!

TIME TO MAKE A WISH AND BLOW OUT THE CANDLES, DENTON.

30

TRIP

FLING

30

yiiiiii

UH-OH.

Puh-

poof!

MY WISH CAME TRUE!

30

MAKE A *REAL* WISH, DENTON.

OKAY. I GUESS I WISH FOR ANOTHER THIRTY YEARS... WITH FRIENDS LIKE YOU GUYS.

30

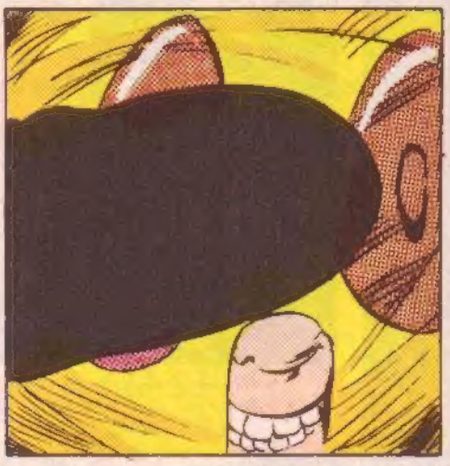
'EY, I THOUGHT YA WASN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL IT OUT LOUD.

Epilogue
To it all...
DO YOU THINK GUIDO MINDED KP SLEEPING OFF HER HANGOVER IN HIS BED?
NO. BUT I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON HER FACE WHEN SHE SEES THE PICTURES HE TOOK!
Clik!
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T DRINK SO MUCH BEER, KP. EVEN IF IT IS MIXED WITH GOOD THINGS LIKE MILK OR ORANGE JUICE.
OHHHHH.. SHUT UP, SIGFRIED.
YOU KNOW, MAZE, IT WASN'T SUCH A BAD BIRTHDAY AFTER ALL. FOR ME, ANYWAY.
READY FOR ONE MORE PRESENT?
DON'T TELL ME. A THREE-PRONG ADAPTER SO I CAN PLUG THE COMPUTER IN.
NO. THAT'S IN THE WALL ALREADY AND PROPERLY GROUNDED
HERE.
A SCRAPBOOK? OF WHAT?
YOU WERE SO UPSET THE OTHER DAY THAT EVERYTHING WAS CHANGING THAT I DECIDED TO MAKE THIS SO YOU COULD ALWAYS SEE THINGS HOW THEY WERE.
scrapbook
the end
10

Cop KO's Crooks and Cake

by T. P. SKIMMER

N.Y. POST Photo by Sven D'Carlo



Me. Especially my thumb (a speck was on the lens)

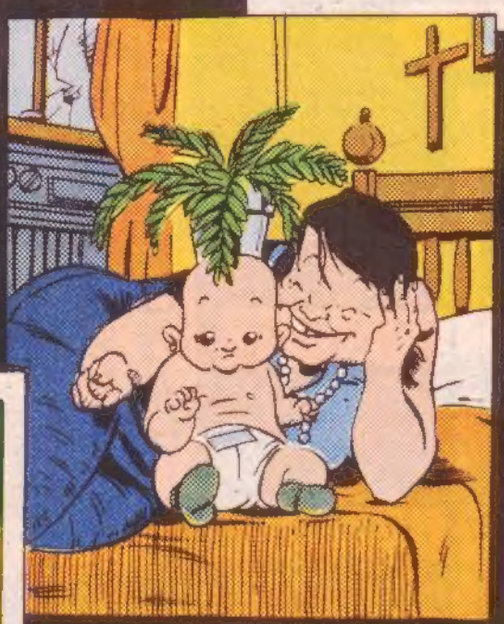
South Richmond Park – It was supposed to be a quiet celebration this afternoon to mark the promotion of one long-time employee to assistant manager at the local branch of the South Richmond Savings and Loan. What it turned out to be was anything but quiet.

Moments before the bank doors were to be locked for the day, two armed gunmen forced their way into the bank, demanding a large quantity of cash while holding bank employees and a few customers at bay.

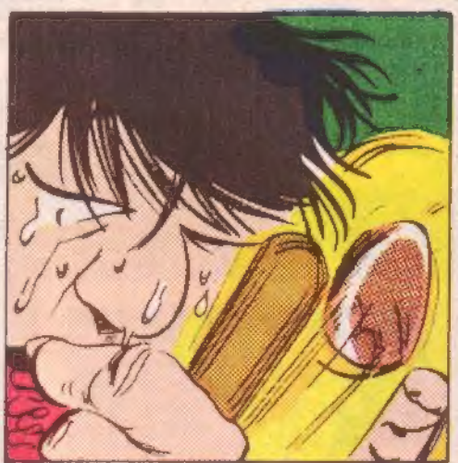
Then, as the gunmen prepared to flee, onto the scene charged Sgt. William Muldavey, the police officer whose regular beat is Freedom Avenue. Aided by the split-second timing of bank employee Ed Valentine, Muldavey was able to subdue both of the bandits and stop the holdup without anyone getting hurt.

The inci
victims,
Arthur V
whipped
before H
scene. A
the empl
in the m

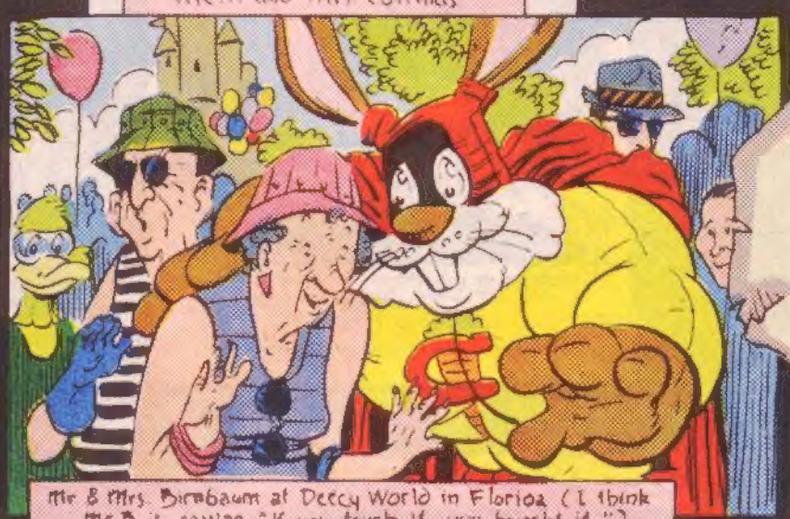
Sgt. Muldavy



Señora Tirado and Helenita (without hair)



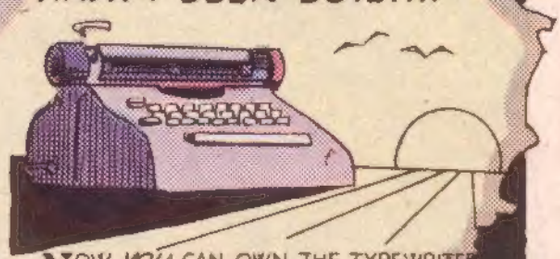
Me... and Mrs. Costinas



Mr. & Mrs. Birnbaum at Deecy World in Florida (I think Mr. B is saying, "If you touch it, you bought it.")

THE OLYMPIC-STAR

A MORE *MODERN* MACH
HASN'T BEEN BUILT...



NOW *YOU* CAN OWN THE TYPEWRITE
THE BIG BUSINESSES USE. SECRET
AROUND THE WORLD SAY, "GIVE ME
OLYMPIC-STAR OR I'LL GET MARR
AND RAISE A FAMILY!"

Your old typewriter when it was new

Brenda and Eddie relaxing at home

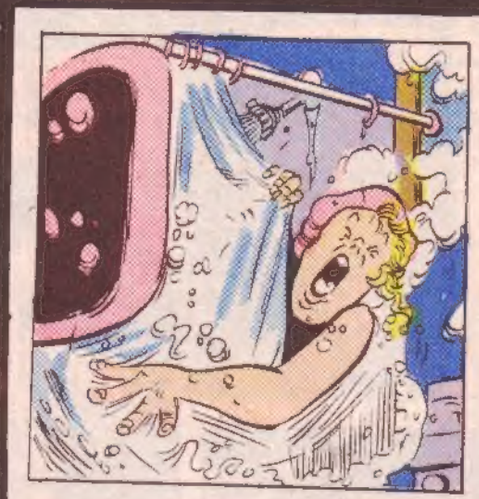
Guido at work (the lady refused to give her name)

Me at the three-for-a-dollar photo booth

Got into the booth late

Tried to catch fly

Wanted to see how camera works. (Now it doesn't. Oops.)



KP

Denton (you) at high school graduation

Me (The whole gang helped take this picture)

In this crazy world, we all need a friend...